

MP. 1349. a. 34  
5

A Full and Genuine ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
Lives, Characters, Behaviour, *last* Dying  
Words *and* Confessions,  
OF THE *H. Cooke (f.)*  
Four Malefactors,

THAT WERE

Executed on *Friday* the 6th Day of this Instant *April*,  
1739, at *Kennington-Common*.

Together with the

True Copy of a LETTER sent to *Cooke* by his Father; with  
*Cooke's* Answer: Also, the true Copy of a Letter which he  
wrote to his Sweetheart the Day before his Execution; and her  
Answer.

LIKEWISE,

A True and Genuine Account of the Parentage, Education, Manner of Life,  
and several Exploits of *Salmon*, *Mills*, and *Blundell*, sign'd with their own  
Hands, and deliver'd at the Place of Execution to the Printer of this Paper,  
in order to be publish'd.

The Originals of their severals Confessions are now in the Hands of the said Printer, and  
may be seen by any Person that pleases.

---

L O N D O N :

Printed for W. RAYNER, near St. George's Church.

MDCCLXXXIX.

(Price Three-Pence)

A Fall and Ground Account

Characters, Behaviors, and Dying  
Words and Confessions

Four Malicious



## T H E

Lives, Characters, Behaviour, last Dying Words, and Confessions of the four Malefactors, that were executed on *Friday* the 6th Day of this Instant *April*, 1739, at *Kennington-Common*.

**A**T the Affizes of Oyer and Terminer, and General Gaol Delivery for the County of *Surry*, held at *Kingston* upon *Thames*, for the said County, before the Hon. Sir *Lawrence Carter*, Knt. one of the Barons of his Majesty's Court of *Exchequer*; the Hon. Sir *John Fortescue Aland*, Knt. one of the Judges of his Majesty's Court of *Common-Pleas*; and others of his Majesty's Justices of Gaol Delivery, for the County of *Surry*, on *Thursday* the 22d, *Friday* the 23d, and *Saturday* the 24th Days of *March*, 1738-9, in the Twelfth Year of his Majesty's Reign, fourteen Persons received Sentence of Death, viz.

*Lawrence Allcock*, *John Cook*, *Alexander Mills*, *John Salmon*, *Samuel Brookes*, *Newberry Ledger*, *John Durham*, *John Exelbee*, *John Thomas*, *Nathaniel Smith*, *Mary Bullock*, *John*

*Roberts*, *John Blundell*, and *William Trigg*.

But his Lordship was pleased to reprieve, before he left the Town, *Lawrence Allcock*, *John Exelbee*, *John Thomas*, *Nathaniel Smith*, *William Trigg*, *John Roberts*, and *Mary Bullock*; and ordered the seven others for Execution; but *John Durham* was afterwards reprieved for Transportation *Newberry Ledger* for ten Days, and *Samuel Brookes* (the Sawyer) for fourteen Days after the Execution of *John Cooke*, *John Salmon*, *Alexander Mills* and *John Blundell*, who were executed last *Friday*, the 6th of *April*, of whom we give the following Account.

*Alexander Mills*, and *John Salmon* were indicted for assaulting *Thomas Harvey* on the Highway, in the Parish of *Rotherhithe*, and taking from him a pair of Trowsers, value 1 s. one Sil Hand

Handkerchief, a Knife and Fork, and two Shillings in Money, Jan. 11.

The principal Witness against these Men, was the Person they robb'd, Mr. *Harvey*, who swore, that on the Day abovemention'd he was stopt at the seven Houses at *Dptford*, by the two Prisoners who demanded his Money, with a *G---d d---r you, Sir, deliver.* There were four in all; but remember'd *Salmon* particularly, he being the tallest of them. They took from him his Books of Accounts, which he afterwards advertis'd, with a Reward, but could hear nothing of them, till the Prisoners were taken up, and upon their Examination before Sir *John Lede*, confess'd they were burnt. The Robbery was confirm'd by *Peter Rogers* one of their Gang, who swore that *Salmon* rifled Mr. *Harvey*, and bid him deliver his Money, while he stood upon the Look-out. The Prisoners not being able to make any Defence, were both convicted, and receiv'd Sentence of Death.

The best Account of the Life and Conversation of *John Salmon*, is that which he himsef gave a Day or two before his Execution, to a Gentleman, who took it down in writing from his Mouth, desiring it might be made publick, and is as follows, viz.

*The last dying Speech and Confession, of John Salmon, who was executed on Kennington Common, on Friday the 6th Day of April, 1739, wrote and subscribed by himself in the New Gaol whilst under Sentence of Death,*

*and by him delivered to a Friend the Day before his Execution, desiring that it might be published.*

AS it is common for Persons under such unhappy Circumstances as myself, either to leave something behind them in Writing before Execution with a Friend, in whom they might repose a Confidence of its being handed to the World without any Alteration (as I hope this my Friend will do) or else to deliver the same Design by Word of Mouth at the Tree, so I chuse the former for two Reasons; first, because at the place of Execution, I hope to have such a Composure of Mind, as to be free from any other Thoughts or Speeches than what will forward my eternal Salvation, such as earnest Prayers and Supplications to Almighty God for the Forgiveness of my Sins, through *Jesus Christ* my only Saviour and Redeemer, and not spend my last Minutes there in fruitless Declarations to a confused Multitude, when the Neglect or Misapplication of one Moment might endanger my Soul's Happiness to all Eternity; and secondly, because the true Narrative of my Life will by these Means be better ascertained to the Publick; and as it is seldom that one Man can get the good Word of all, so it is natural to believe, that there will be various Reports and Disputes concerning me after my Death, some pitying, others reflecting, especially as I die in the Neighbourhood where I took my first Breath; wherefore for the Satisfaction



action of all People the following is written, and desired by me to be published.

I am now near Twenty-two Years of Age, born of poor Parents in the Parish of St. George's Southwark, where I am now under this dreadful Sentence, and was in my Youth got into a neighbouring Charity School, where I was taught to read well, write a legible Hand, and farther instructed in the Principles of the Christian Religion: When I arrived to the Age of 14 Years, I was put out an Apprentice to one Mr. Edwards a Gardener at Newington, with whom I served my Time with Reputation, having nothing more at Heart for the whole time, than my Master's Interest, which gained me an universal good Character; afterwards I served several other Gardeners without having my Character called in Question for my Dishonesty: Crimes subject to Youth I have been guilty of, and given too much Way to, but of a more heinous Nature, I never was, nor before the Face of a Magistrate under any Accusation whatsoever, until the Time of my being committed for the Fact for which I shall now suffer: The last Master I served was one Mr. Haynes of Christ Church Parish, happy had it been for me if I had continued with him; but the late Cry of a War designed against the Spaniards, and the seeming Readiness every one shewed to engage in that Expedition, joined with the natural Love I bore my Country, betrayed me from my Master, and caused me to enter on

board a Man of War, and being handsomely fitted out by a Friend (whom I have since abused) repaired on board with an Intention to pursue the Voyage, and make my Friend amends; but there being soon a Reduction of the Forces, and our Ship's Crew reduced to the lowest Compliment of Men, I, with others, was paid off and discharged, and receiving but a small Matter of Money, and not considering the smaller the Sum was, the better Husband I ought to have been of it, followed the distracted Multitude (for so I call a Crew of Sailors, when they have any Money in their Pockets) and without any Thought of the Obligation I had to my Friend that fitted me out, extravagantly expended it, and can give no other Account for so doing, than following the Examples of my Shipmates, who had no Thought of To-morrow; but alas! now comes my Misery, my Money is gone, no Friend to go to, because I had most ungratefully used them; and as there are too many ready to take the Advantage of such Distresses, so it was with me; I was observed by the Persons, who were the Instruments of bringing me to this shameful End, to be wandering destitute, they soon scraped an Acquaintance with me, and I glad of a little Succour and Refreshment, embraced the Opportunity, and soon found an Employment provided for me, for after they had plied me with Drums, and intoxicated my Senses, that I was forward to do any thing, without knowing what I did, they enlisted me

B

into



into their Service, and as I have understood since, if I had not served them, Guilty or not Guilty, my Portion would have been an Impeachment, for if an old Thief can but betray two or three raw Lads into his Company, so as to know them, he secures an Indemnity to himself, and saves his own Life, for as soon as he is apprehended for a Robbery, they are impeached, and too often innocent Blood spilt, and the notorious and guilty Villain escapes with a Reward into the Bargain; but this is not altogether my Case, because I acknowledge, as I think myself in Duty bound as a dying Man, my being concerned with them in the Fact for which I am justly condemned and ought to die, wherefore I take this Opportunity of begging Pardon of my Prosecutors, and all others whom I have in any manner injured, and hope they will think my Life a full Satisfaction for my Crimes, though was it in my Power to make other amends I would willingly do it. And now permit me, good People, to admonish Youth to have a special Regard to their Company, especially when they are with Strangers, lest by a Freedom of Conversation they creep into their Circumstances, and under a Pretence of Relief ensnare them as I have been; though I have one Comfort, thanks be to God for the same, that my Reign in Wickedness was not of a long Duration, the less have I to answer for; and now I conclude, declaring that I die an unworthy Member of the Church of England, most earnestly be-

secching all good Christians to pray for the Salvation of my poor Soul, thro' the Merits and Mediation of Jesus Christ, the Saviour and Redeemer of the World, unto whose Mercy I commit my Spirit. *Am e.*

*John Salmon.*

*Salmon* was of a mild tender and meek Spirit behaved with great Decency and Devotion while under Sentence of Death; and would on the least Repremaid burst out into Tears; he always declar'd that the Fact for which he was to suffer was the first he ever committed; and he hoped God would forgive him thro' the Merits of Jesus Christ. He had been brought up in a Parish School, his Friends not being able to give him Education by any other Means, where he was taught to Read and Write, and was instructed in the Principles of the Christian Religion.

*Alexander M.I.*, born of honest Parents in the Parish of *St. Savou's, Southwark*, aged Twenty-four Years, was put Apprentice to a Fisherman, with whom, he says, he served out his Time faithfully. Being out of his Time, he went on board a Man of War, and had used the Seas ever since, til last *December*, when being discharged, and receiving but a small Sum for his Wages, he soon spent it; and being out of Business, and quite destitute of all Necessaries, he unadvisedly cohabited with a Woman for upwards of two Years last past, by whom he had two Children. He affirms,



firmly, that he was the chief Cause of his being brought to this his unhappy End, by putting him upon extravagant Courses in order to maintain her, and was at last treacherously betray'd by her, she bringing Persons to take him and John Daniel, his Comrade. However, he freely forgave her, as he hoped God would.

He likewise confess'd himself guilty of the Fact for which he was now to suffer, and also that he, in Company with others, once robb'd three Market Women in St. George's-Fields. Humbly begs Mercy of Almighty God, and Forgiveness of all the World; entreating the Prayers of all good People, and begging that no body will reflect on his aged Father; and that he died in the Faith of the Church of England; and in Charity with all the World.

*Alexander Mills.*

*John Cook*, late of the Parish of *Banstead*, was indicted (with *George Francis* not yet taken) for assaulting *John Daniel* on the Highway, and taking from him a Silver Watch, value 3*l.* a Guinea and Half in Gold, and 5*s.* in Silver, *Feb. 22.*

He was a second Time indicted for assaulting *John Brooks* on the Highway, and taking from him a Silver Watch, value 3*l.* two Guineas and a Half in Gold, and 4*s.* in Silver, *Feb. 22.*

*John Daniel*, the first Prosecutor, deposed, that he was Servant to the Lady *Hawkins*. That at the Time laid on the Indictment, as he was coming

over *Banstead Downs* with his Lady in the Coach, he saw two Men come up to the Coach Door, and bidding the Coachman stop, one of them presented a Pistol to the Lady, and robb'd her, as he was afterwards inform'd, of 5*l.* and her Gold Watch. That looking steadfastly at the Prisoner while he was robbing the Lady, the Prisoner said to him, *God damn you, what a'ye stare at? I'll blow your Brains out; come, let's see your Money; deliver this Minute.* Upon which he took from him his Watch, a Guinea and Half, and a Crown piece.

*John Brooks*, the other Prosecutor, swore that the Prisoner was the Man who robb'd him; that going to see him in *Hertford Gaol*, he knew his Face again perfectly well, and saw his Watch which had been taken from him.

The Evidence given by these two Witnesses was corroborated by *Mr. Sanders*, Keeper of *Hertford Gaol*: He deposed, that the Prisoner was taken at *Droghda*, and committed on a violent Suspicion of a Robbery in the County of *Hertford*. The Watch (which he pull'd out of his Pocket, and shew'd to the Court) was taken upon the Prisoner, and was owned by the Prosecutor *Brooks*, when he came to the Gaol to see the Prisoner. He had another Watch when he was taken, which was supposed to belong to *John Daniel*; but *Daniel* would not own it.

The Prisoner had nothing to say in his Defence, only, that the Man who was not taken, was the Person who robbed!



( 6 )  
robb'd the Prosecutors; but having no Witnesses to support his Assertion, he was convicted of the Robbery, and receiv'd Sentence of Death accordingly. It is to be observ'd that *Brooks* was the Coachmen, and *Daniel* the Footman to the Lady *Hawkins*; and had not they been robb'd themselves, it's a Question whether the Criminal would have been so easily convicted; for we don't find that the Lady appear'd against him at his Trial; or do they seem so sollicitous about her Loss, as their own. And tho' it's doing the Country Justice to bring such notorious Offenders to condign Punishment, yet if this could be done without Hope or Expectation of Reward in the Prosecutor, it would be a more generous Way of proceeding, and be a Means of preventing the ill Practices that are often pursu'd by ill-minded Prosecutors, who have the Reward given by the Law, of more than the Interest of their Country, in View.

*John Cooke* (the Ostler) aged Twenty-two Years, was born at *Kingstand* in *Herefordshire*, of reputable Parents, who gave him a good Education, such as Reading, Writing, and casting Accounts. At the Age of fourteen Years his Father took him from School, with an Intent to put him out Apprentice to some Handicraft Business, that he might, when arrived at Man's Estate, provide for himself in an honest reputable Way; but his Father being in a publick Way, as that of an Inn-keeper, and Gentlemen coming continually to his House, his Son used to take care of their Horses,

which so much diverted him, and to which he took so great a Liking, that he thought no more of going to a working Trade, and could be, by no Means, persuaded to it, though large Overtures were made by his Father. No, nothing would satisfy him, but to be among the Horses at his Father's: His Father then, seeing and considering what a vast Loose such an Employ might give to the Inclinations of his Son, in corrupting his Morals, especially in a publick Inn, where all Sorts of Company resort, prevail'd on the Minister of the Parish to take him into his Service, with whom he lived three Years, and retain'd the Character of an honest, faithful Servant; but at length, thinking he could better himself by leaving the Reverend Gentleman; he left his Service, and went to his Father's, where he staid about three Months, idling his Time away; 'till his Father sent him to *London* with a Recommendation to a Friend, to get him into Service.

He had not been long in *London* before he got into a Service at a Livery-Stable in *Finsbury*, near *Moor-Fields*; and as he was well skill'd in the Nature and Diseases of Horses, and very careful and mindful of his Business, soon gain'd him the Esteem and Respect of his Master, who made him head Ostler; in which he behaved well for about eighteen Months; but getting acquainted with several young Fellows who followed their Pleasures and neglected their business; he soon catch'd the Disposition of them, and neglected his, which his master not liking discharged



him: however, he having saved some money in this Service, he was not put to a Nonplus, but could support himself without taking evil Courses; this he did till he heard of a Place, the White Horse in the *Borough*, where he offered his Service to the master *Mr. Robert Patience*, who employed him as an Ostler, in which Service he staid between three or four months; from thence he went to *Mr. Bagshaw's*, the *Falcon Inn* in the *Borough*, where he lived about four or five months, in all which Places he is said to have behaved honest and justly. The last Service he was in was that of *Dr. Langborn* at *Stepney*; and getting acquainted with one *George Francis* an Ostler, a Fellow as evilly disposed as himself, they agreed to go and rob on the Highway; so taking two of the best Geldings in the Stables, they turned out and took the Road to *Epsom* in *Surry*, where they assaulted and robbed the *Lady Hawkins* of a gold Watch and five Pounds in money, and her Servants *John & Daniel* and *John Brookes* of two silver Watches, and about four Pounds in money; from thence they took a Trip across the Country, and near *Watford* in *Hertfordshire* they robbed *Mr. Adams* of *Watford*, of 117 l. and then returned to *London*, but *Cook* going into the Country to buy Horses, as he pretended, left *Francis* in Town, who was presently after discovered and taken up by *Mr. Adams*, and being carried before the Lord Mayor, he impeached *Cook*, and as the Constable

was carrying him to the Compter, he made his Escape, and has not been taken since: however, on his Information *Cook* was taken at *Dunstable*, of being the Man described by *Francis*, and committed to *Hertford Gaol*, where *Brookes* going, knew him again, and owned the Watch he had got of his, and as no Robbery was sworn against him in that County, he was moved by *Habeas Corpus* to *Kingston* in *Surrey*, to be tried for robbing *Mr. Brookes* and *Mr. Daniel* on *Epsom Downs*, and for which he was found guilty and received Sentence of Death accordingly.

Having gone through with an Account of some of the Robberies he has committed, which are all we could come at, he being a very obstinate Fellow; we shall take a View of his Behaviour while under sentence of Death.

On *Sunday March 25* he was, with the other Prisoners, brought from the Stockhouse in *Kingston* to the New Gaol in *Surry*: On the Road the Judges Coach overtaking the Waggon in which he was, he threw out a great many Exclamations against his Lordship, and encouraged several wicked and stupid Fellows to do the same, and said if he had a Pistol loaded with Ball he would shoot it thro' the Glass and kill him. But being arrived at the New Gaol, he was put into a Room by himself, for he was not fit to be among Persons who would be sedate and sober; being by himself



himself he hurt none, but spent his Time in eating, drinking, and joking, and seemed proud of being shone to the variety of People that flocked every Day to see him; and seemed careless or regardless of a future state; that took up the least of his Thoughts; he had a Country Wench whom he released out of Hertford Gaol where she lay for her Fees, used to attend constantly upon him till some indecent Familiarities were suspected to have passed between them by the Keepers, she was denied a future Admittance, and several other young Wenches, among whom was a Gardener's Daughter of *Lambeth* his Sweetheart, a Servant Maid in the *Borough*. This gave him great Uneasiness, and made him very angry with his Keepers, and to be revenged he invented Lies of them, and charged them with taking his Money, &c. all which he gave to his Sweetheart and her Father.

He was naturally of a cheerful merry Disposition; and when he should have been at his Devotion, he would be talking of Horse-Races, Cricket-Matches, and Fives——— One Day being in a hipish Mode, and thinking what would become of his Body, he sent for an Undertaker in the *Borough* to take measure of him for a Coffin; when the Person came, he told him, he had thought better of it since he sent for him, and said, What signifies my buying a Coffin when I don't know whether I shall be put in it or no? I had better give three or four Guineas to a Parcel of Ruffians to take my Body

from the Gallow, and so dismissed him. At Prayers with his Fellow Prisoners he behaved serious, but that lasted no longer than the Prayers.

The Morning of his Execution he ca'd for half a Pint of Wine, and changed a thirty six Shilling Piece and six Shillings, for a Guinea and two half Guinea. To his intended Father-in-law he gave his Cloaths, after which his Sweetheart came to take her final Leave of him, which was very shocking, for she hung about his Neck, crying and ringing her Hands, and he swooning away; thus they parted, and when he was brought to have his Irons knocked off, he swooned away again, and did not recover himself till the Cart was going out of the Gaol.

*A true Copy of a Letter sent by Cook's Father to a Cousin of his in Basinghall-street, desiring him to give it to him; and given by Cook the Morning of his Execution, to the Printer of this Paper.*

*Kingsland, Herefordshire  
March 31, 1739.*

*Dear Cousin,*

PRAY go to my unhappy Child, and tell him, that hearing the melancholly News of his Misfortunes, has thrown me into a fit of Sickness, which I believe will end my Life, for the Doctors have given me over: If I had not been thus ill, I would have come to *London* myself.—Pray ask him what induced him to lead such a wicked Course of Life, who might, had he



he had the fear of God before his Eyes, lived handsomely and with Reputation. — I took all the Care possible of him I could in his Infancy to bring him up in the fear of God, and gave him as good an Education as my Circumstances would permit. — Little did I think, when I recommended him to our Friend in London to get him into Service, that he would have taken ill Courses. — Oh! had he but staid with me till now, rather than have run himself into the wicked ways that have brought him to this shameful and untimely End. — It has been a great, heavy, and sorrowful Concern to our Family; I shall never look up no more. — Pray persuade him to read and mind good Books, that he may prepare his Soul for a future State. — We shall all be very diligent and fervent in our Prayers and Supplications to Almighty God to forgive him his Sins and Transgressions, and to receive his Soul, at its departure from his earthly Body, into his heavenly Kingdom. Give my Love to him, his Mother's and all our Family's; which is all from your distracted, yet loving Father and Mother, *James and Mary Cook.*

*N. B.* His Mother died some Years ago; and the above is his Mother-in-law.

Honoured Father,  
**M**Y Cousin has shewn me the affectionate Letter you was pleas'd to send him, and you can scarce con-

ceive what Impression the Reading of it made upon me. It immediately brought to my Remembrance all the Kindness and Favours which you did for me in my youth. I acknowledge with Shame and Confusion, your Tenderness and Indulgence to me, and my own Ingratitude, Stubbornness, and ungovernable Temper. Had I regarded your kind Instructions and constant Admonitions, I had never come to this shameful and untimely End. But what shall I say, or how excuse myself to you? My Folly has been my Ruin, I have brought Destruction upon myself, and Shame and Disgrace upon my Family. My Eyes are now open, and I have a full View of my past Misconduct; and in vain I wish it was in my Power to retrieve it, or make Satisfaction to those I have injured, I have no Hope, no Confidence, but in the Mercy of a gracious God, who has promis'd Forgiveness to those who sincerely repent of their Sins. — It grieves me to the Heart that your Concern for me, should so deeply affect you, as to hurt your Health. But I most earnestly entreat and conjure you to take Care of yourself, for it's impossible that your Grief can be of any Service to me. 'Tis true, had my Life and Conduct been guided by your Instructions, I might have prov'd a Comfort to you in your declining Years, but as it is, had I liv'd longer, it's probable I should have given you greater Vexation; and therefore in pity to you, as well as Justice to my Country which have wrong'd, the Law



Law has stopt me in the full Career of my Sins, and I hope in Mercy to my Soul, as I have had an Opportunity of making my Peace with God.

Your dying Son,

John Cooke.

*A True Copy of the Letter written by John Cooke, the Ostler, to the young Woman he was upon the Point of marrying, the Evening before his Execution: Delivered to the Printer of this Paper the Morning of his Execution.*

My dearest Molly,

**T**HOUGH the dreadful Hour draws near, wherein I am to take Leave of this World, and I have very little Time, in this Place, where nothing but Noise and Sorrow dwells, to prepare for the Change I am soon to undergo; you still maintain a Place in my Thoughts; nor can I quit this Life in Peace, without leaving you some Testimony how much I loved. I hoped once to have pass'd many happy Years with you; for had I escaped this Time, what I had got would have been sufficient to have settled us in some Business, without following the same Course of Life any more: But my ill Fortune has ordered it otherwise, and I must submit to it as well as I am able; though God knows that is not too well. It is a terrible Thing, to die in the Prime of one's Years, and in full Health and Strength, and not know whither one

is going, or what will be one's Lot hereafter; had we been once married, I should not have run myself into this Danger; but that is past, and can't be recall'd. My Sorrows are greater than I can bear, and it is a very great Addition to them, to think that my untimely Fate, and shameful Death, will make you a Sharer in my Anguish; it is the last Trouble, however, I shall ever give you; God be your Comforter, as I hope he will be mine. I hope I need not bid you pray for me, in my last Agonies, when perhaps I may not be able to pray for myself: Oh! my Love, the Separation of Soul and Body is terrible, and the more I think of it, the less I am prepared for it. My Tears fall so fast, I am scarce able to see to write any more, and yet I have abundance to say; where will my poor Soul be, To-morrow at this Time? I am told God is merciful, I wish I may find him so to me, for I have been very wicked, though not guilty of many Crimes, deserving Death, by our Laws: I found no Favour, tho' greatest Part of my Fellow Prisoners, condemn'd with me, have had Mercy extended towards them; and yet I am not the oldest Offender amongst them. I can't help saying thus much, tho' perhaps I ought not, it is scarce possible, at my Age, to part with Life without Reluctance; but I will say no more upon that Head. As I am resolved, my dearest, to leave what little I have to you, I beg you would send your Father to me To-morrow Morning,



Morning, if you can't come yourself, to take Care of the small Matter I have left; I must beg, likewise, that your Father would take some Friends with him, to secure my Body from those inhuman Man-slayers the Surgeons, who, as I am inform'd, lay wait for my Carcase, and have offer'd a considerable Sum for it; I desire likewise he would provide me a decent Funeral, for which I shall leave sufficient with him; I beg you would send me an Answer to this, and, if possible, let me see you To-morrow Morning, to take my last Leave; though I know it cannot be without the greatest Concern to us both, especially to,

*Your disconsolate, and*

*Dying Lover,*

JOHN COOKE.

*A true Copy of the young Woman's Answer, sent to him the Evening before his Execution.*

*My poor dear unfortunate Love,*

I Received your mournful Letter, which has cost me many Tears, and, Heaven alone knows, how many more your To-morrows Sufferings, and our bitter parting will cost me; for I am resolved to take my last leave of you, if my sorrow for your unhappy circumstance, and approaching shameful death, lessens me strength enough to ster out. Alas! my love, why did you bring yourself into such

a miferable Condition! You say, had we bin married, this wude never have bin, and wude not have run yourself into such danger; wude to Heaven we had, if that wude saved your life, beter had it have bin for us, to have livd, even in want; together, than for you to have brot yourself into this calamety. by indevering to provide us warewith to settel us in the World. You say, the separation between the Sowl and Body is terable; undoubtedly it is so; I have some guess at it by the terrors I no labour under, at the Thorts of our parting; wot must it be wen that moment cums! Heaven inabel us both to bare it. You tell me how fast your Teers flow, alas! myne trickel down as fast, I shude not care, however, if they flowd yet faster, so they wude be of any service to you; but all your comfort and myne also, must be in the Hopes, you will change this Life for a beter; it is allowed by all that God is merciful: and wy may not he be so to you, as well uthers who have bin grater Ofenders. it is true you have had no Faver in this World, and that is my sorrow; if you had, we mite have hade sum Hopes, of living happy in another Cuntry, tho we cude not in this; perhaps we mite, in Time, have returned hither, as many have dun before, and all your Forts mite have bin forgotten; but that is not now to be thot on; Heaven speke more peace to your Sowl, then I am abel to do at present. The best advice that is in my  
D power



power to give you, in the best manner you are able, in order to secure yourself a better state hereafter; perhaps we may one day meet, were it will not be in the power of any one to part us; in that Hope let us be as refresh as possible to our present grievous Sufferings. You desire I would pray for you; of that you might have been assured, had you not desired it; for, Heaven knows! You are never out of my thoughts. As to your being remembered by me in my Prayers, in your last Agonies, you may depend upon it, if I have Senses enough at that dreadful moment to do any Thing. As to all your other desires, make yourself easy about them, my Father shall take all the Care that it is possible, both to secure your Body, and provide you a decent Funeral, and as to what you are pleased to give me, it will be no further valuable to me, than as it will be a Token of your Love, even at your last hour. My Heart is so full, that I am not able to add any more; besides that that your moments are so precious, to be diverted from more serious thoughts; farewell, my dearest Life, compose yourself as well as you are able; may God Almighty grant you his peace in this your last Night; and take you to his Mercy in his last moments; once more farewell till Tomorrow, when I must take my everlasting farewell,

Your poor disconsolate,  
and for ever in Love,

Mary Hill.

*John Blundell* was indicted for breaking and entering the House of *Thomas Blake*, in the Parish of *St. Mary at Lambeth*, and stealing thereout five Shirts, five Shifts, several Linnen Flocks, Handkerchiefs, &c. and 14s. 6d. in Money, the Property of the said *Blake*, June 8.

*Thomas Blake* deposed as follows, viz. My House was broke open the 8th of June. He got in at the Window. I lost every Thing, my Lord. I had a Sash Window, and the very Window Curtains were gone. All my poor Wife's Smocks were gone; my Child's Frocks; all my Handkerchiefs; every Thing was stole; nay, out of six Shirts I lost five; and if I had not had one on my Back that would have been gone too. Indeed I lost every Thing I had in the World. Fourteen Shillings and Six-pence that was in a Box; and that was taken away. Every Thing was gone, 'tis very hard. I went in search of the Prisoner, and took him in London, and carried him before my Lord Mayor, and then I put it home to him, and there he confess'd it; and then my Lord sent him to *Newgate*, and so he came here. He's the Man that robb'd me. The proof being plain, the Jury found him guilty. Death.

*John Blundell*, born of poor but honest Parents, in the Parish of *St. Olave's Southwark*, aged Twenty-two Years, was put Apprentice to a Fisherman, but his Master dying, he went to Sea, and afterwards falling into bad Company, and being at the same time wholly ignorant of the Duties of Religion, he took



ook to thieving, and committed five Robberies at Chatham, and one in London, for which he was now most justly to suffer. He had, in his younger Days been at several Schools, but being of a dull Capacity, he made but small Proficiency in Learning, inso-much that he scarce knew any thing about Religion. He died in charity with all Men.

John Blundell,  
M  
his Mark.

*Their Behaviour at the Place of Execution.*

**SALMON** behaved with great Decency, and seemed duly sensible of his Crime, particularly that for which he suffered, and which had brought him that untimely End. He lamented very much the Follies of his Youth, and inconsiderate Conduct, and warned young men against indulging themselves in unwarrantable Libertie, and hoped his unhappy Example would be a means of deterring them from following their licentious Courses, which must inevitably, one time or other, end in their Ruin. He free'y forgave all men who had any ways injured him, and hoped he should be forgiven both by God and man. He was turned off with calling upon God for mercy on his departing Soul.

**Mills** seemed truly penitent for his misent Life, and for his many enormous Offences against both God and

Man, and owned himself guilty of that for which he suffered; wished it was in his Power to make Reparation to those he had injured, but as he could not, he hoped God would accept of his sincere, tho' late Repentance. He freely forgave all men, and trusted that he should find mercy at the Hands of God through *Christ*; begged the Prayers of all good People for his departing Soul, and joining his Hand with *Salmon's* went off, calling upon God for mercy.

**Blundell** seemed sensible of, and penitent for his past Sins; owned the Justice of his Sentence, and confessed he was guilty of many other Facts besides that for which he suffered, and hoped all young men would take Warning by his woful Example. He freely forgave all men, as he hoped God would forgive him, professing that he died in Charity with all the World, and so calling on God for mercy was turned off.

**Cook's** Behaviour was not so agreeable as might have been expected from a man in his unhappy Circumstances; nor was he so resigned to his Fate as the others; for it was with some Difficulty he was brought to suffer the Halter to be put about his Neck, being lifted by three men and held up by them, while the Hangman fastened him to the Tree, saying, *That he would not to be accessory to his own Death*. We shall not take upon us to judge of the future State of his Soul; but charitably hope that God has had mercy on him.



We think it's proper our Readers should be informed, that while those unhappy Malefactors were on the Road from the Gaol to the Gallows, *Roberts*, the Prosecutor of *Salmon* and *Mills*, rode at the Tail of the Cart, jeering and insulting them all the Way, which was such an Act of Inhumanity, which the most Savage, unciviliz'd *Indians* would have blush'd at; and it is surprizing that any one who calls himself a Man, and would be thought a Christian, could be guilty of so much Cruelty. 'Tis true, they had done him an Injury, and the Law had pass'd Sentence of Death upon them, as they deserved Punishment; what other Satisfaction could he desire? And it shew'd a Baseness infinitely below the Spirit of a Man, to insult those whose Souls must then be in the utmost Horror and Distress, and who in a few Moments, were to give up their Accounts to an almighty, tremendous, and impartial Judge.

## F I N I S.

We shall add a few Words in Relation to *Brooks*, who was reprieved the Night before his Execution. The High Sheriff, who had been well appriz'd of the Characters as well of the Prosecutors, as of the unhappy *Brooks*, took uncommon Pains to save him. He got a Petition sign'd by a great Number of the principal Inhabitants of the Parish where *Brooks* lived, and deliver'd it himself to the Judge, and backed it with the strongest Representations of his own; but the Judge declined doing any Thing in his Favour. Upon which the High Sheriff applied to the Duke of *Newcastle*, who was pleased to sign a Reprieve for fourteen Days; and it is hoped that a free Pardon, in that Time, will be obtained; if the Case be, as it's generally represented; namely, a drunken Frolick, and a Quarrel in the Street.



